

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following at page 1, after the title:

BACKGROUND

Please amend line 3, at page 1:

Field of the Invention. Technical Field

Please add the following at page 1, line 17:

2. Related Art

Please add the following at page 1, line 32:

BRIEF SUMMARY

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, beginning at line 21:

The gateway domain 200 comprises the following principal components: a home portal 205 and a platform operator portal 210; a Java Messaging Server (JMS) Queue software component 215; a notification server software component 220 (to be described in greater detail below) and a Service Exposure Engine (SEE) 250. The SEE 250 includes a set of hierarchical service layers 252 and a set of service plug-in modules 254 to 257. The set of hierarchical service layers 252 provide a number of basic services to all of the service plug-ins 254 to 257 including dealing with encryption and decryption of data for transfer over the unsecure network, authentication of the parties communicating with one another over the unsecure network, etc. One of the server plug-ins 254 is an Integrity Manager Server Site (IMSS) plug-in 254 which performs the special function of

regulating how individual client applications 110 to 150 are allowed to communicate with SEE 250.

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, beginning at line 33:

Full details of the IMSS (and the corresponding Integrity Manager Client Side (IMCS) components contained within each client application 110 to 215 can be found in co-pending patent application number EP 01308317.5 (corresponding to USSN 10/488,777 filed 8/30/2002) which is incorporated herein by reference). In brief, the IMSS 254 communicates with a corresponding IMCS in each of the client applications to regulate the frequency with which each client application may contact the SEE 250; the gateway platform operator may use this mechanism to “throttle back” the frequency with which any particular application may contact the SEE in order to reduce the load on the SEE in times of high usage. The mechanism involves a so called “heart beat” in which the respective client application IMCS contacts the IMSS and updates from the IMSS a set of current parameters which specify the frequency with which the current application may contact specified service plug-ins within the SEE (or, in alternative embodiments, they could simply specify the frequency with which the application may contact the SEE – i.e. independently of what actual service plug-in it is desired to contact).

Please add the following paragraph at page 8, line 6:

As those in the art will appreciate, the above described domains are physically realized by computer-based hardware (e.g., servers, switches, networks, etc.) executing computer program code (instructions) stored in computer readable storage media.